

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 019377

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, XF, NATO
SUBJECT: BRIEFING NATO ON MIDDLE EAST

REF: USNATO 413, STATE 17687, USNATO 469

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

1. WITH SINGLE EXCEPTION, DISCUSSED PARA 2 BELOW, WE BELIEVE THE SECRETARY'S BRIEFING OF NATO AMBASSADORS ON JANUARY 25 (STATE 17687) ANSWERED QUESTIONS RAISED WITH YOU BY THE NATO PERMREPS (NATO 269). MOST OF PERMREPS' SPECIFIC QUESTIONS, SUCH AS ON THE CANAL REOPENING AND FUTURE USES OF UNEF, WERE RAISED BY THE AMBASSADORS AND WERE ADDRESSED DIRECTLY BY SECRETARY. OTHERS OF MORE GENERAL NATURE, SUCH AS ON FUTURE STEPS IN PEACEMAKING PROCESS AND ROLE OF SOVIETS, WERE ANSWERED IN THE COURSE
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OF THE SECRETARY'S PRESENTATION. TWO OF THE PERMREPS' QUESTIONS ON THE GEOGRAPHY OF THE DISENGAGEMENT (PARAS 10 AND 18 NATO 269) WERE ANSWERED BY A COPY OF THE DISENGAGEMENT MAP GIVEN TO THE AMBASSADORS AT THE MEETING.

2. THE QUESTION OF NATO ACCESS TO OR DISCUSSION OF UNPUBLISHED UNDERSTANDINGS WAS NOT RAISED BY THE AMBASSADORS DURING THE SECRETARY'S BRIEFING. HOWEVER, THE SECRETARY IN EFFECT ADDRESSED THIS QUESTION WHEN HE DESCRIBED OUR ROLE IN THE NEGOTIATION (PARA 6 STATE 17687)

AND NOTED THAT THE FACT THAT TEXT OF THE CLASSIFIED ARMS LIMITATION ANNEX HAD NOT LEAKED WAS A GOOD SIGN OF GROWING CONFIDENCE BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES. ALTHOUGH WE HAD A MAJOR ROLE IN HELPING THE PARTIES ACHIEVE A DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT, BOTH IN ITS PUBLIC AND CLASSIFIED ASPECTS, IT IS ESSENTIALLY AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PARTIES FOR VALID REASONS OF THEIR OWN. IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE, AND WOULD COMPROMISE OUR FUTURE USEFULNESS, FOR US TO REVEAL -- EVEN IN A CONFIDENTIAL FORUM -- WHAT PARTIES THEMSELVES FEEL MUST REMAIN SECRET FOR TIME BEING. IF THE PERMREPS AGAIN RAISE QUESTIONS ABOUT UNPUBLISHED UNDERSTANDINGS, YOU SHOULD DRAW ON THE FOREGOING IN YOUR REPLY. KISSINGER

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